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WASHRAG

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 11
NOVEMBER 2019

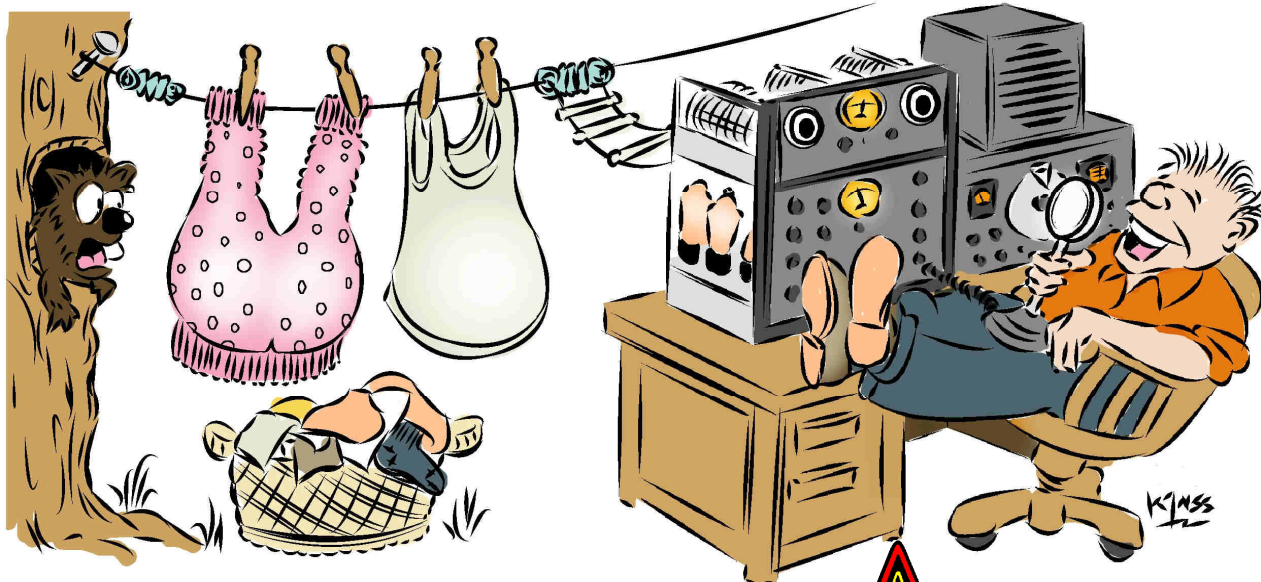
Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 21 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2019

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, November 7th, 2019

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, November 7th 2019**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Final nominations & Elections for 2020 Club Officers will take place. Subjects for the meeting include upcoming plans for the rest of 2019 and 2020, and **WASHFest 2020**.

See you there!

Cover Photo: Early Morning Crowd at the 2019 WACOM Hamfest

Cover Photo by Linda Hill, courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2019 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2020 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2019 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN
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e-mail: newsletter@n3sh.org or w3wn@arrl.net

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test February 23rd

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 23rd, 2020, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2020**, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is required due to space limitations.

If you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liaison Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: w3wn at n3sh dot org

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: To Be Determined

Tony's Musings

With the first days of November the cold weather is upon us like the flick of a switch, lets hope for a bit of Indian Summer so that we can all finish up whatever last minute projects we have before the Winter comes!

There are only 3 more club meetings before the WASHFest and we are still looking for Chair-persons for

various positions. Don't forget the main prize will be a Flex-6400M so spread the word - Need to sell them tickets!!

Additionally, this the November meeting we have any last minute nominations for club officers and the Election so I hope for a great turnout!



— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA
President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH

KDKA 100 Update:

"The 1x1 calls have been reserved for 2 weeks of November 2020. I was unable to reserve the entire month.

There was talk of operating from various sites. Let's get the ball rolling on that and schedules hammered out, permissions granted, and whatnot.

If you have key KDKA people that I should be talking to, please let me know who they are."

Bob Bastone
WC3O
radiofreebob@gmail.com

Ye Editor had planned on being at the October gathering of the **WASH Breakfast Gang**, meeting as usual at Eat 'N Park, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray; but alas, it was not to be. Thanks again to Frank N3FB, this month the Gang was represented by WB4GCS, N3FB, KB3GMU, W3WH, KB3BYA & Amy, and N3IDH. Discussions included: the taking of notes, Pitcairn island on 160, tv reception, pa qso party, a remote check-in from K3VX, car washes, towing with new vehicles, new trucks, filters for HF, SDR radios and pure signal, closing of Field and Stream, firearms and ammunition, traffic lights with blinking yellow light, slow service, oil changes, recycling, working at the customer service desk

Our next gathering of the Gang will be post-Thanksgiving recovery from Black Friday on November 30th, returning to the **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray, officially starting at **8:00 AM**. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tables as we've previously done, **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

On the mend: As some members of the club are aware, Ye Editor's wife Julie was involved in a serious car accident on October 24th. We are relieved to report that while she was injured, she is recovering and will be back on her feet in a few weeks.

A timely reminder... if you notice **interference on the 146.955 repeater**, please make sure you log the date & time and a summary of what you may have heard, and let Tony KB3BYA know. As many of you know, there have been reports of encroachment from users of a repeater on the same frequency in an adjacent state. If it reaches the point where something will need to be said, we (ie Tony, as Club Prez) needs to have something more than "we think we heard something." Certainly no reason why we can't all co-exist, but if a problem crops up, the sooner we can address it and resolve it, the better.

So, how did you do this year in the **2019 Pennsylvania QSO Party**? Word is that conditions were pretty tough this year, to be expected at the bottom of the sun spot cycle. Even so, everyone who operated reports having a great time despite challenging conditions. If you have some pictures or even a few notes about how you did, we still have plenty of room in future newsletters for you!

It's that time of year again: **Officer Elections for 2020** will be held at the November meeting. If you can only make one meeting a year, this is the one! (It's the best way to make sure that YOU don't get elected to something!)

We're sorry to report that there is **no VE Session Report** this month... because the session, regrettably, **had to be cancelled** at the last moment. VE Team Liaison W3WN was unavailable due to work schedules, and another of the VE Team had to cancel the night before due to unfortunate circumstances that took priority. Needless to say, this was not exactly one of our best years for test sessions!

On that note, VE Team Liaison W3WN has requested **that another member of the VE Team take over his role**. His future work schedule, while still subject to change, will not let him be available for most scheduled upcoming sessions. This level of uncertainty is not fair to anyone – the team, the club, and especially the candidates. He will be available to run the test session at **WASHFest 2020**, but that will be his last one. Anyone interested, please see **WASH** President Tony Romano KB3BYA.

You do know that we have a couple of club events coming up in the next few weeks? The **annual 2 Meter Simplex Contest** is coming up in mid-January; and of course, **WASHFest 2020** will be here at the end of February. Expect to start seeing more information about both of these in the next few newsletters!

By the way, did you hear ARRL WPA Section Manager Joe Shupienis **W3BC singing the National Anthem** at the 2019 WACOM Hamfest? Who knew he had such a voice? We think that going forward, he should be the opening act at EVERY upcoming WPA Hamfest!

Yahoo has announced **significant changes in YahooGroups**. Amongst other things, they are removing content from the remaining active groups, and converting them to purely email lists. Why is this important? After all, the club moved the N3SH Reflector from YahooGroups to GoogleGroups a few years ago... but the WASHRag Newsletter Mailing List remains, for now, on YahooGroups. Because of the upcoming changes and related limitations, we are exploring moving the list – specifically to where (another GoogleGroup? Groups.IO? Somewhere else?). More information, hopefully, next month... but we anticipate a change to the mailing list by the beginning of January.

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 13

Minutes, October 3rd Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:07 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)
Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence: Silent Keys & Others
Number of Members Present: 21; Numbers of Guests: 0;

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV) Motion to Accept: Glen (KE7FD);
Seconded by: Mike (WA3PYU). Accepted: Yes.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU):

- Are there any corrections to the Minutes: No.
- Motion to Accept By: Carol (KB3GMN); Seconded by: Frank (N3FB)
Passed: Yes

Repeaters: Frank Bobro (N3FB): Repeating!

WASHNet

- Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Monday net "Positive";
- Glen (KE7FD) Tuesday Net "not as populated"

Contests: Larry Comden (K3VX):

- PAQSO Party: October 12th-13th, 2019 - WASH members to be located in Somerset, Mercer, Butler and Venango counties. Arizona & So. Dakota QSO Parties occurring at the same time
- CQ Worldwide DX Contest SSB: October 26th & 27th
- Boy Scouts Jamboree: October 5th & 6th,

Public Service: Frank (N3FB) Parade volunteers needed downtown on November 30th; Arrive between: 6:00 & 6:30; will probably use 442.55 repeater

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published. Need content as always. Especially from our various Pa QSO teams and participants (even just an operating photo or three!) (e-mail of Oct 2, 2019)

Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Next VE Session October 17th. At the moment, no pre-registered candidates. I may need someone to run the session, as I am now scheduled to work 1 to 10 PM on Thursdays. (e-mail of Oct 2, 2019) On another note, going forward, if we have someone else who can run the VE team, I would like to step down from the responsibility. My current work schedule is the 1 to 10 shift Thursday – Monday, which makes getting to the test sessions on Thursdays difficult. I do not yet know how long this will last (long story) but obviously, if my schedule remains as is in February, we will have a problem at the Hamfest. (e-mail of Oct 2, 2019)

Ways & Means: Carol Danko (KB3GMN):

President's Report: Tony Romano (KB3BYA): see Good of the Order – obituary for Dr. Jan Smith

Old Business: Jim (WB4GCS) Generator testing to be undertaken after PAQSO party

Nominations for club officers:

- President: Tony Romano (KB3BYA) Motion by: Richy, 2nd: Bill
- Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV); Motion by Richy, 2nd by Bill
- Motion to close nominations: Bill 2nd Carol (KB3GMN)
- NOMINATIONS CLOSED;

New Business:

- New committees for Field Day and Hamvention; tabled until next meeting. Rick Bell may not be able to provide food for Hamfest.
- ARRL DX Contest: February - Bill (W3WH) & Larry (K3VX) traveling to the Virgin Islands (St. Thomas) with their wives.

Good of the Order:

- Larry Comden not shown as member in newsletter.
- Dr. Jan Smith (W3JDS) Passed; offered HF radio equipment and related books to be donated to charitable org. Glen (KE7FD) will attempt to contact schools to facilitate donation of HF radio equip't.
- An article will be published in the newsletter displaying available repeater sites: ARES 2 meters @ 147.09 & 75 meters @ 3983; Steel City 147.03; SET 147.09; 80 meters 3983
- Ron (W3WN) is requesting someone to take over responsibility for the VE team.
- Red Cross ARES meetup: 20 people attended (good showing by WASH members);
- Great Race (mile marker 6) good job by WASH members; well represented.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Bill (W3WH)

Seconded: Carol (KB3GMN)

Meeting Adjourned: 20:09 hours



WASH Spotlight: History

Did you know? History was made this year at the 2019 WACOM Hamfest!

In all his years of attending hamfests around the area, and buying prize tickets, Bill Hill W3WH has never, won a First Prize.

Oh, he's come close a few times... and sometimes bought winning tickets on behalf of someone who was unable to attend an event (and The Boss still thanks him for that TV set in the living room!)... but never before has he ever got the Main Prize on his own.

That all changed on November 3rd.

Congratulations to Bill Hill W3WH, main prize winner at the 2019 WACOM Hamfest, pictured here holding his prize, an ICOM IC-7300, after he arrived home!

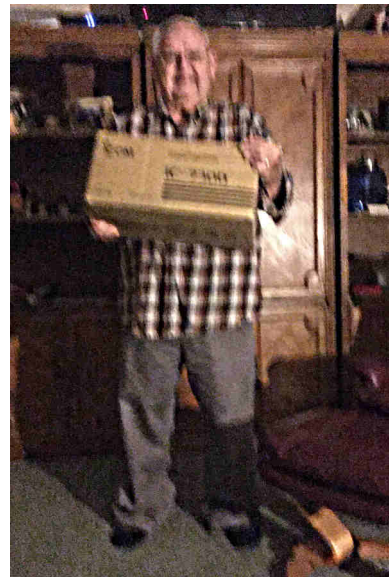


Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 William R. Hill W3WH

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'nPark**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3GM
AB3NM
K3CMU
K3GW
K3HCR
K3VX
K6DWR
KA3VXM
KB3BYA
KB3CMT
KB3DCO
KB3GMN
KB3GMU
KB3IAC
KB3IVX
KB3JHR
KB3ORO
KB3YCX
KC3ELA
KC3GMM

KC3MLC
KC3NWM
KC4WTT
KE7FD
N3DFK
N3FB
N3KFD
N3RDG
N3RDV
N3SBF
N3TDV
N3ZK
N8NEU
NU3Q

W3LE
W3RON
W3WH
W3WN
WA3PYU
WA3VSS
WA3WXR
WB4GCS
WO3Z

WASH FL
KA3UPY/M
W4ZE
WASH NE
NØPEU
WASH OR
KB3NVL
KB3NVM
WASH OH
N8DPW

WASH TN
K3OL
KE3XB
N3YPB
WASH TX
NB3C
K3LGM
KB3IJX
Jane Wagner
WASH VI
NP2JF

Silent Keys

AB3KA
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNX
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
WA3JPP

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through October 3rd, 2019
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2019–2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

November 2 nd –4 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 3 rd	WACOM Hamfest	Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 North Main Street, Washington PA
November 7 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
November 16 th –18 th	ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	http://www.arrl.org
November 23 rd –24 th	CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW	https://www.cqww.com
December 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
December 6 th –8 th	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 14 th –15 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 22 nd	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW	http://www.arrl.org
December 28 th –29 th	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	http://www.kkn.net/stew/
December 31 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 2 nd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
February 6 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
February 23 rd	<i>WASHFest 2020</i>	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park 15129

Two Rivers ARC Hamfest 2020

Sunday, March 29th, 2020, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

McKeesport Palisades and Event Center

100 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132

Talk-in on 146.730 PL 131.8 Admission \$5.00

More Information at <http://www.trarc.net>



Photos Courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



Pa QSO 2019: Sweep!

Bill Hill W3WH



Chartiers Township, PA, October 24th, 2019 — In my opinion the two best Ham operating events of the year are Field Day, and the Pa QSO Party, with the "Party" narrowly edging FD by a nose. That's mostly true because of the 8 hour break overnight for some needed sleep.

For quite a few years now Larry K3VX, Harold K3HCR, and I have been a team for the QSO party. We've operated in several different counties including Beaver, Clarion (thanks to the Dankos), Cambria, Fayette and Mercer a couple of times. This year Mike WA3PYU joined us on Sunday. In 2016 we got a sweep in Clarion with the help of the Richie and Carol and this year we got a sweep using K3HCR as our call.

The aim of the contest is to work all 67 Pa. Counties and as many ARRL sections as possible. Most year's we miss getting a sweep by one or two counties but this year with the help of mobiles and rover stations we nailed them all!

It was no surprise that conditions were poor. After all, it's been quite a while since there have been any sunspots. Usually 40 meters is the band of choice but not this year. It was 80 meters. Generally you wouldn't expect to hear much on 80/75 until full darkness but this year it was busy for the whole contest.

To underline the conditions situation, last year we had 473 QSO's. This year 349. Big difference.

Certainly, a big part of the fun is setting up a portable station for the weekend away from home and all of its diversions. When we do a portable operation we can "OD" on radio without guilt. The fellowship of being with friends and operating in friendly competition with others can't be beat IMHO.

Our station in Mercer consisted of two CW rigs and one SSB. We erected antennas for 80, 40 and 20 meters. One new wrinkle for us was the use of an NVIS antenna for the first time. It wasn't anything complicated. It was the FD phone dipoles erected at 15' and it worked beautifully. Even with some water in a leaky barrel connector joint they still worked. Some others tried NVIS installations and weren't impressed but ours were quiet and I'm certain would have worked even better if the feedline was dry. Oh well....next year.

On 20 meters we used my Steppir CrankIR portable vertical and it worked verywell. Larry even worked Alaska on Sat. afternoon.

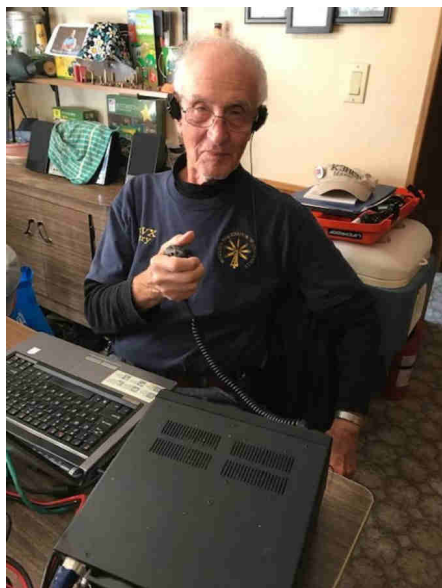
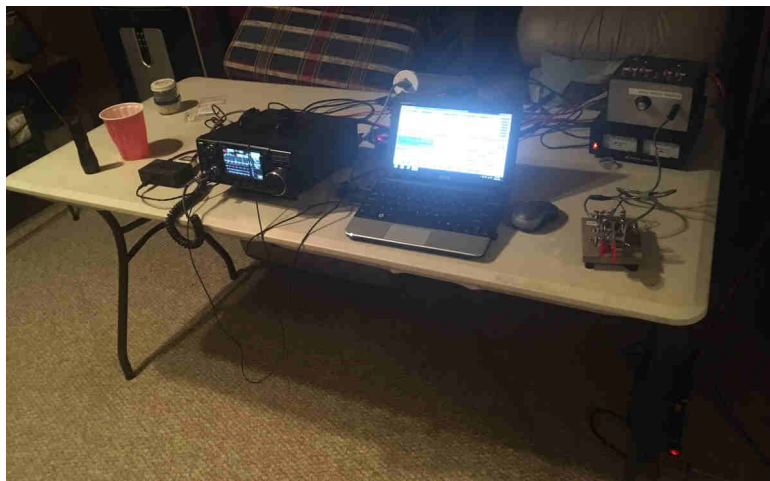
We got our sweep by 10:30 on Sunday morning. I thought that was pretty good until I saw an email from someone who finished their sweep 4 hours and 10 minutes into the contest. Wow!

I understand lady luck also smiled on Curtis KB3CMT, and naturally, the N3ZK gang, and Bud Plants N3TIR of WACOM. Congrats to all.

In addition to all Pa counties we also worked 43 ARRL sections to accrue 61,000 points. That's by no means an extraordinary score but we're happy with it and are already talking about where to go next year. I hope more WASH members will try it next year.

For me, I can't wait!

All photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 William R. Hill W3WH



**Additional photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019
Harold C. Rosenberger K3HCR**

Pa QSO 2019: Team N3ZK

Photos Courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Jim Sanford WB4GCS



FCC Dismisses Three Petitions for Rulemaking

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 3rd, 2019 – The FCC has dismissed petitions for rule making filed in 2018 by three radio amateurs. All of the petitions were put on public notice earlier this year and comments invited.

Edward C. Borghi KB2E, of Farmington, New York, and Jeffrey Bail NT1K, of West Springfield, Massachusetts, submitted very similar petitions seeking changes in how the FCC grants Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. Borghi's *Petition* ([RM-11834](#)), would have prohibited vanity applicants from requesting call signs not designated for the applicant's geographical region, with exceptions under the rules governing call signs previously held by family members. Borghi complained that applicants had to compete with "out-of-area people for the few 1 × 2 or 2 × 1 or catchy 2 × 3 call signs available in their area of residence."

Bail's *Petition* ([RM-11835](#)) asked that the FCC give residential preference in competing applications to applicants whose listed FCC address is within the same district/region as the applied call sign. He cited limited availability and increased demand for 1 × 2 and 2 × 1 call signs. The FCC dismissed both petitions in a [single letter](#).

"The Commission does not limit applicants for vanity call signs to requesting call signs assigned to the region of the applicant's mailing address, except for call signs designated under the sequential call sign system for Alaska, Hawaii, Caribbean Insular Areas, and Pacific Insular Areas," the FCC pointed out. "When the Commission established the vanity call sign system in 1995, it rejected a proposal to restrict vanity call sign applicants to call signs designated for the region in which the applicant resides," because it would restrict a given applicant's choice of vanity call signs to 10% or less of those otherwise assignable.

The FCC also noted that a limitation based on an applicant's place of residence "could easily be circumvented by using a mailing address in another call sign region."

In denying the petitions, the FCC concluded that no need exists to require vanity call signs to correspond to a licensee's mailing address, "given that call signs do not automatically change when a licensee moves, and a licensee's mailing address is not necessarily the location from which he or she is transmitting."

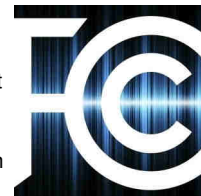
"The Commission rejected this proposal again in 2010 for the same reasons," the FCC said. "The records before us do not demonstrate any changed circumstances or other reason that would warrant revisiting this decision." The FCC further pointed out that vanity applications received on the same day are handled by a random selection batch process, making it impossible to identify in-region vanity call sign applications and process them ahead of other applications for the same call sign."

The FCC also [turned away](#) a *Petition* ([RM-11833](#)) from Jerry Oxendine K4KWH, of Gastonia, North Carolina, who asked the FCC to clarify that states and localities should have no authority to regulate Amateur Radio with respect to enacting "distracted driving" statutes. Oxendine argued that such statutes violate FCC rules on scope and operation of equipment by licensees; violate the intent of the FCC and Congress with respect to Amateur Radio's role in disasters, and hinder emergency operations using mobile equipment.

In denying the request, the FCC took issue with Oxendine's assertion that the strong federal interest in promoting Amateur Radio communication should preempt distracted driving laws. The FCC said it received about 20 comments supporting Oxendine's petition.

"Laws that prohibit talking on handheld communications devices while driving do not preclude or unreasonably obstruct mobile use of handheld two-way radios," the FCC said in denying Oxendine's petition. "These laws apply to the use of handheld devices while driving. A driver can comply with these laws by using a hands-free attachment or by parking the vehicle prior to using a handheld device, both of which are contemplated by our rules regarding two-way radios."

The FCC said, "The record before us does not demonstrate that state and local laws that prohibit talking on handheld devices while driving stand as an obstacle to amateur communications or actually conflict with federal law in any way." The FCC further noted the lack of any express preemption or argument that Congress has "occupied the field" of regulation with respect to distracted driving statutes.



FCC Proposes Fining Amateur \$17,000 For DQRM

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 4th, 2019 – A New York Radio Amateur — Harold Guretzky K6DPZ, of Richmond Hill — is facing a \$17,000 fine imposed by the FCC. Guretzky was issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* ([NAL](#)) on October 3rd for causing intentional interference on a local repeater and preventing other radio amateurs from using it.

"Given his history as a repeat offender, this violation warrants a significant penalty," the FCC said in the *NAL*.

The *NAL* recounted numerous complaints alleging that Guretzky was deliberately interfering with a repeater in Glen Oaks, New York. In June of 2017, the FCC issued a *Warning Letter* to Guretzky, advising him of the nature of the allegations against him and directing him to stop using the repeater going forward. Nonetheless, additional complaints were filed. In April 2018, agents from the FCC New York Enforcement Bureau office drove to Richmond Hill to investigate. Following an inspection of Guretzky's station, the agents advised him in writing that he was prohibited from using the local repeater.

After the FCC received further complaints regarding Guretzky's continued operation on the local repeater, an Enforcement Bureau agent again drove to Richmond Hill to investigate. The agent monitored the VHF repeater's input and output frequencies and, after observing deliberate interference to other stations, used direction-finding techniques to identify the source of the transmission as Guretzky's station.

"The agent monitored and recorded the transmissions emanating from Guretzky's station for several hours that afternoon and heard him interfering with the local repeater," the *NAL* said. "Later, the agent heard Guretzky making threatening comments toward other amateur operators. These transmissions were a deliberate act to control the frequency and prevent other Amateur Radio operators from conducting legitimate communications."

The following month, FCC Regional Director David Dombrowski spoke with Guretzky via telephone, noting that the Commission was still receiving complaints about his continued use of the repeater and cautioning him against using the repeater.

The FCC said Guretzky "apparently willfully violated" Section 333 of the Communications Act and Section 97.101(d) of the FCC's Amateur Service Rules, demonstrating "a deliberate disregard for the Commission's authority and the very spirit of the Amateur Radio Service by continuing to interfere with the local repeater" despite having been warned.



VP6R Final Press Release

Glenn Johnson WØGJ

Pitcairn Island, November 2nd, 2019 – The VP6R DXpedition is now history with 82,700 Q's in the log. We had excellent weather for dismantling our stations & antennas. We have just finished packing everything for the return trip home. The Braveheart is transporting us to Mangareva tomorrow. It will then go on to Punta Arenas, Chile, transporting some equipment we used for the South Orkney DXpedition.

The oldest Pitcairn resident passed away yesterday. We attended the funeral this morning. He was laid to rest right next to Tom Christian VP6TC. It was a very moving experience.

We have helped two local hams get back on the air. Meralda Warren VP6MW has a new 40/30/15M vertical and is set up now to operate FT8. Mike Warren VP6AZ has a repaired vertical and new beam. They are both on the air again! VP6MW called CQ just once using FT8 on 15M. She had an instant pileup. I guess there is still a need for VP6 Pitcairn even after VP6R went QRT!

We still miss Ralph KØIR, who did almost all of the organization and preparation for the VP6R DXpedition, but was unable to go at the last minute. I stepped in literally 5 days before leaving home. The success of VP6R is almost solely due to the details Ralph planned for. If there was ever a DXpedition on autopilot, VP6R was it. THANKS, Ralph!!!!

Thanks to everyone who worked us to make the VP6R DXpedition such a success at the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

Visit www.pitcairndx.com for QSLing details. It will be at least 7-10 days before most of the team gets home. OQRS will be activated then and is the best way to receive a QSL card. Eventually our entire log will be uploaded to LOTW.

QSL via K9CT.

ClubLog's DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted List as of October 27th, 2019

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. P5 DPRK (North Korea) | 6. BV9P Pratas Island |
| 2. 3Y/B Bouvet Island | 7. KH87K Kure Island |
| 3. FT5/W Crozet Island | 8. KH3 Johnston Island |
| 4. BS7H Scarborough Reef | 9. FT5/Kerguelen Island |
| 5. CEØX San Felix Islands | 10. 3Y/P Peter 1 Island |

The complete list is available at <https://secure.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

Yasme Foundation Approves Supporting Grant to ClubLog

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 28th, 2019 – The Board of Directors of [The Yasme Foundation](http://www.yasme.org) has approved a supporting grant of \$4,000 to [Club Log](http://www.clublog.org) and Club Log Author Michael Wells G7VJR.

The grant will support capital improvements, needed to take the system into the future with improved resiliency, enhanced performance, and the hardware needed for continued innovation.

Club Log caters to DXers and DXpedition hosting. Yasme's association with Club Log began with a grant in 2012, when the system hosted 67 million contacts with 7,300 users. Today, Club Log boasts some 70,000 active users and some 590 million contacts.

The Yasme Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized to support scientific and educational projects related to amateur radio, including DXing and the introduction and promotion of amateur radio in developing countries.

THE
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DX News Briefs



5Z4/G3AB is currently QRV from Nairobi, 10 – 20 meters. He is awaiting additional equipment and antennas. QSL via LotW.

FM/F8AAN will be QRV from Martinique (NA-107) 9 – 18 November, 40 – 10, CW only. QSL via F8AAN

DF2WO will be QRV as **9X2AW** 4 – 16 November. QSL via MØOXO SQ7RAI, will be QRV as **C5/SQ7RAI** 12 – 20 November, 20 – 6 meters, SSB and FT8. QSL via SQ7RAI

KH8/K1TF will be QRV from Pago Pago (OC-045) 12 – 18 November, HF, CW SSB & Digital. QSL via JA1VND

5U9AMO will be QRV 15 – 25 November, holiday style, 160 – 6 meters CW, by HB9AMO. More information at <http://www.hb9amo.net/5u9amo.php>. QSL via MØURX

C6AGU will be QRV from Wood Cay Island (NA-001) 15 November – 9 December, focus on 160 & 80, CW & FT8. QSL via HA7RY

4U1A will be QRV 23-24 November from the Vienna International Centre. QSL via UA3DX

CT1BOH will be QRV as **D4C** from Sao Vicente Island (AF-086) 23 – 24 November. More information at <http://www.d4c.cc> QSL via IK2NCJ

TF3CW will be QRV as **ED8W** from La Palma Island (AF-004) 23 – 24 November, 40 meters only. QSL via EA5GL

KØAV will be QRV as **HCØT** 23 – 24 November. QSL via LotW

N2TTA will be QRV as **NP2P** 23 – 24 November. QSL via LotW

PZ5W will be QRV 23 – 24 November. QSL via NØAT

LZ3FN will be QRV as **SW9AA** 23 – 24 November. QSL via LZ1PM

3D2AG will be returning to Rotuma Island as **3D2AG/R** for a one-op DXpedition from about 28 November through 5 January. He will be QRV 160 – 6, focus on 160, 80 and 60 Meters, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. Logs will be uploaded after his return. QSL via 3D2AG or ClubLog.

T88PB will be QRV 6 – 8 December, 160 - 6, mainly CW & FT8. More information at <http://pandasan.iimdo.com> QSL via JAØJHQ

4L/TA1HZ will be QRV 13 – 20 December, mainly FT8 & FT4 on low bands. QSL via TA1HZ or LotW

4X9R will be QRV 27 – 28 December from the Beith Shearim UNESCO World Heritage site, 80 – 10 Meters CW & SSB. QSL via 4Z5LA

Members of the Radio Club de Provins F6KOP will be QRV as **E44C** 5 - 17 February, 160 -10 CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, FT4 and FT8. More information at <https://palestine2020.wordpress.com> QSL via F5GSJ

Members of the Z2LA and 7P8LB teams are planning to be QRV as **9J2LA** 5 – 15 March. Focus will be on CW and FT8, SSB on the high bands. More information at <https://9j2la.com> QSL via MØOXO

QSL Routes

3A/G4PVM via EB7DX
4X/R1CC via DJ1ND
7S7V via E77E
CQ9A via EA1AP
CR6K via CT1ILT
CR6T via CT1ESV
CV7S via CX7SS
DX1J via JA1HGY
ED7O via EA7EU
ED7R via EA7IZJ
EF8R via EB7DX
EH3ICCD via EA3HZC
EM3ØTPU via UR7TWY
HC5UDT via DL8UD
HG5A via HA5KDDQ
IB2LV via I2MYF
IB9A via IZ2WFL
IB9MY via IT9SSI
I19P via IT9CHU
IO2V via IK2CFR

J42L via SV2DCD
LX75V via LX1JH
LZ365BM via LZ1KCP
OG7A via OH6MW
OL1Z via OK2WZN
OR18BTS via ON6GMT
OR18BXE via ON5AV
OR18CRD via ON4CRD
OR18DIG via ON4DIG
OR18LUS via ON7LU
OR18LVN via ON3AR
OR18RSX via ON4RSX
OR18SNW via ON7KO
OR18TLS via ON6MS
OR18WLD via ON6WL
OR18WRA via ON4WRA
OR2KMJ via ON2KMJ

OR6T via ON4AMX
OR8ON via ON8ON
OZ3ØEU via OZ8IE
P3X via 5B4AMM
S549APR via S51A
SJØX via SM6JSM
SN11ØWM via SP3PGS
TMØDX via F8DHE
TM2ØCI via F6KJX
TM3R via F5UTN
TM4L via F8ARK
TO1J via JF2QNM
V3A via MØOXO
V47T via W2RQ
XR6N via CE6VMO
YO15IPA via YO3AS
YPØC via YO3CZW
YR8D via YO8KRR
YV5ZV via EA5GL
ZF2TH via N3DL
ZY2WDX via PU2YBW

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

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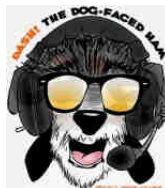
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Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed on behalf of New York University (NYU) seeking to clarify that Section 97.113(a)(4) of the Amateur Service rules prohibits the transmission of "effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over-the-air for true meaning." Comments are due by December 2nd, with reply comments (comments on comments already filed) due on December 17th. The FCC has requested that all filings refer to WT Docket No. 16-239, which grew out of an ARRL *Petition for Rule Making* seeking elimination of symbol rate limitations on the amateur bands and is unrelated to the wider encryption issue.

"For years, certain amateur licensees have violated Section 97.113(a)(4) by relying on an interpretation that contravenes the two bedrock principles — openness and transparency — that have enabled amateur radio licensees to self-regulate the Amateur Radio Service bands effectively," the NYU *Petition* asserts. "This interpretation has restricted Amateur Radio Service licensees' efforts to effectively self-police the amateur bands, thus enabling the continued violation of many other amateur rules. Accordingly, the Commission should eliminate the lingering uncertainty regarding Section 97.113(a)(4)'s meaning and clarify that the rule prohibits the transmission of effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over-the-air for true meaning."

US Amateurs by Class as of November 1st, 2019:

Novice	9,157
Technician	416,667
General	189,441
Advanced	42,129
Extra	154,349
Club	12,706
Total	824,449
All-Time High	02/11/2019 825,088
Last 90 Days:	
New Amateurs	7,414
Callsign Changes	2,421
Class Changes	2,508
No Longer Licensed	5,945
All Updates (*)	26,850

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com



FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 23rd, 2019 — The FCC has denied a *Petition for Rule Making* to amend Part 97 station identification rules to better accommodate and simplify station identification during emergency nets, drills, or activations. ARRL member Robert A. Dukish KK8DX, of Canfield, Ohio, had sought a change to Section 97.119(a) of the rules to allow a single point of transmission for station ID on those occasions. He proposed permitting a net control station or other designated participant to announce the call signs of every station taking part in the net or exercise, when tactical call signs often are in use, at 10-minute intervals, using automatic CW identification.

In turning down Dukish's petition, Scot Stone, the Deputy Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Mobility Division, said commenters overwhelmingly opposed the proposal.

"They argue that the current rule strikes the appropriate balance between the need to identify the source of transmissions and ease of communication," Stone wrote. "Commenters state that, in their years of experience with amateur emergency communications, the station identification requirement has not proven to be a burden or obstacle, and that the current procedure actually contributes to efficient operations by providing a clear indication that a communication has ended and the channel is available."

Stone said some commenters asserted that Dukish's proposed procedure would be unworkable and cause confusion, while others characterized his proposal as a solution in search of a problem.

"The purpose of the station identification requirement is to make the source of transmissions clearly known to those receiving those transmissions," Stone wrote. "Separating the call sign from each transmission would defeat this purpose." Moreover, he said there's no evidence that the current station ID requirements have hindered Amateur Radio emergency communications.

Dukish had filed his petition in December 2018, and the FCC invited comments on it in February 2019.

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is soliciting comments on a

NYU explained its rationale for involvement in an amateur radio regulatory matter in a July 2019 *ex parte* filing from the university's legal counsel. "As a major center of radio engineering research and scholarship and on whose faculty sat telegraph and Morse code pioneer Samuel Morse, NYU is committed to fostering innovation in, and attracting new entrants to, the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)," the letter to FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch, signed by Ari Q. Fitzgerald of Hogan Lovells US LLP, said. "We can think of no better way for the FCC to promote these goals than to stand up for transparency and openness in amateur radio."

NYU Electrical Engineering Professor Ted Rappaport N9NB filed the petition on the university's behalf along with Michael J. Marcus N3JMM. The petition reflects Rappaport's view that Winlink amateur radio email software is "an example of a system that has contravened the Commission's requirements." He included PACTOR 2, PACTOR 3, PACTOR 4, WINMOR, ARDOP, and VARA in this category as well.

"For years, certain amateur licensees have skirted these requirements, sending and receiving communications over amateur bands using communications modes that incorporate dynamic compression techniques and, by extension, effectively encrypt or encode the communications," the *Petition* contends. "These amateur licensees combine dynamic compression with automatic repeat request (ARQ), which allows only two linked stations to complete a transmission without error."

A footnote in the *Petition* says the efficacy and availability of recently announced software to decode Winlink communications when sent using different PACTOR modes is "unclear" as it applies to existing PACTOR-capable modems. "If any bits or letters are missed or corrupted during the reception — as would be expected under HF propagation — the message cannot be realistically decoded," the footnote asserts. SCS, the company that created PACTOR, recently unveiled its **PMON** software that it says offers the ability to monitor the content of PACTOR 1, 2, and 3 transmissions over the air.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

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<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

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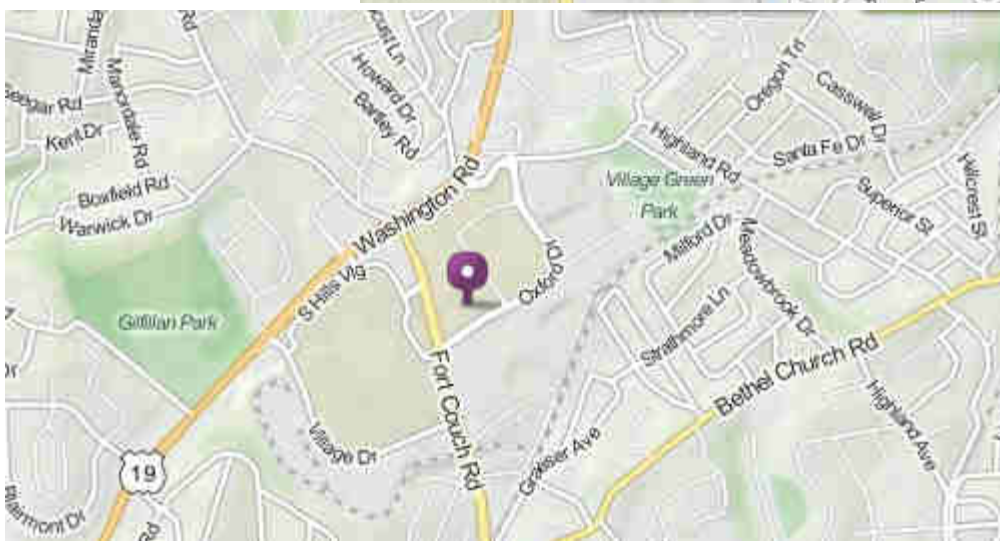
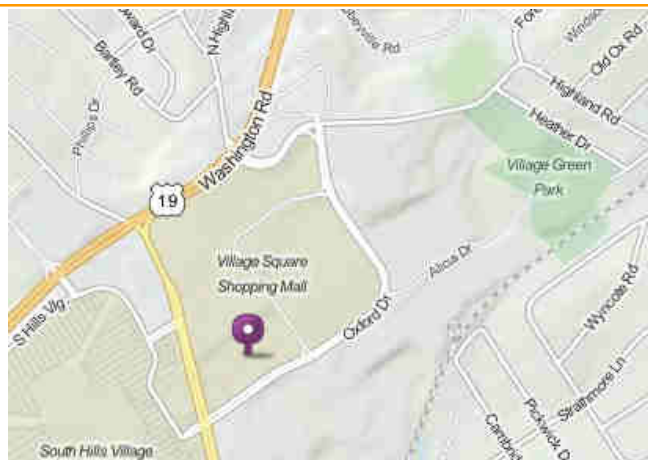


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